

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO**

# City of Alamogordo

## Police Department Awarded Crisis Intervention Team Grant

**Alamogordo, NM Friday, May 25, 2018**

The Alamogordo Police Department (APD) is one of four pilot sites nationwide, that was recently awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to establish a Crisis Intervention Training model. This Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) grant is part of BJA's VALOR program (Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability) and is endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the International Crisis Intervention Team, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). APD competed against many larger agencies and was selected because of the hard work from the City's Grant Coordinator, Deborah Osborne, President of NAMI New Mexico, Kimmie Jordan, and from the level of commitment and support from the City and County's mental health providers. Kimmie Jordan will also be the project's Mental Health Lead.

Crisis Intervention Training is a community-based approach that provides police officers, dispatchers, and first responders with essential tools designed to help de-escalate interactions with people suffering from mental illness who are in crisis. Through partnerships with mental health professionals and stakeholder organizations, alliances are formed where those in need of mental health services receive the resources they need to get better. Nearly 3,000 communities in the United States have CIT programs and on average there is an 80% reduction of officer injuries in mental health calls, a reduction in time officers spend on mental-health-related calls, and first responders are better able to recognize those in crisis so to get them help rather than incarceration.

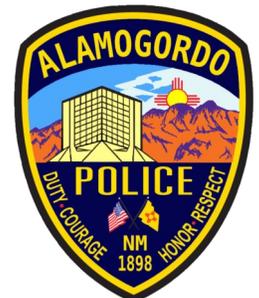
Policy Research Associates (PRA), a Woman-owned Small Business in Delmar, New York, is a national leader in behavioral health and research and will be orchestrating the training and implementation of APD's CIT program. Training is an intense 40-hour, 5-day course with mental health and medical experts, family members of those with mental illnesses, first responders and social service agencies. In either July or August this year, PRA will conduct a site visit in Alamogordo and will meet with department members, mental health partners, and community stakeholders to develop a strategic implementation plan. Between October, 2018, and January, 2019, PRA will facilitate CIT training and from February to March, 2019, PRA will provide a Train-the-Trainer course that allows for continuous training for all first responders and community partners. It is APD's goal to have all officers and dispatchers CIT trained by the end of 2020.

For more information on the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Crisis Team Intervention Programs, please go to: <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Law-Enforcement-and-Mental-Health>

For more information on the VALOR program, please go to: <https://www.bja.gov/programs/valor.html>

For more information on Policy Research Associates, please go to: <https://www.prainc.com/>

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